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Climate Change Corner

Climate Change Campaign in Lamjung

Climate Change, Bali conference and Nepal

Climate Change and Disaster risk

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Effects of Climate Change on the Ocean

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As of 30th January, 2008

Disaster Related Reports

Issue-91, Jan 30, 2008

According to the global report on disaster risk, Nepal ranks 11th in terms of earthquake risk and 30th in terms of flood risk.

Rukum gets stuck from snowfall, severe cold

The normal life in district headquarters of Rukum district, Khalanga has been hit hard due to the heavy snowfall that took place on last Saturday. The snowfall that occurred on Saturday night is so far the biggest one in the area, said Meteorology Measurement Centre, Rukum.

The snowfall also took place at and around Musikot and other adjoining VDCs owing to the cold increased following a week-long continuous snow fall in upper region. Locals said the headquarters measured above half feet snow fall while it is one-and-half to five feet in Saankh, Chaukhawang, Jhula, Syalapakha including nearby VDCs.

Normal life is being affected when the food supply in the northern belt of the district has been obstructed due to the problem surfaced in the movement of horse and mule with the snowfall. The locals of the region have been sustaining their livelihoods relying on millet, potato and barley, said Pheran Budha of Hukam.

The flight services and road transport in the district were also obstructed during Saturday and Sunday due to the snowfall. The score of patients suffering from pneumonia has gone on rise due to the excessive cold in the area, said Dr. Shyam BK.

No public service related works took place in the public offices in the districts as service user did not approach the offices, Arjun Bhandari of District Administration said. More than 30 locals at Syalapakha have been detected with pneumonia, Manbir Shahi, a local, informed.

(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

Snowfall badly hits Humla, Rasuwa, Mustang

Snowfall along with windstorm yesterday has badly affected normal life in Lali VDC of Humla district. The windstorm damaged the roof of the health post in the VDC and damaged medicines and documents, health worker Rudrabir Shahi said. Both health workers and patients have been affected after the storm damaged the roof of the health post.

Normal life in northern parts of Rasuwa district has been affected due to the snowfall for the last few days. The snowfall has affected the langtang area the most followed by Briddhim, Timure, Thuman, Chilime and Gatlang areas. Livestock have also been affected due to the lack of grazing following the snowfall. Almost all areas 2,000 metres above sea level are covered with snow.

[Situation Report NRCS, 10th Sep](#)
[NRCS Bulletin 21st Aug, 2007](#)
[WHO SITREP \(5-19th Aug, 2007\)](#)
[OCHA Situation Report, 13th Aug](#)
[WHO SITREP \(4-12 Aug, 2007\)](#)
[Sink or Swim \(Oxfam Int\)](#)
[DM Report \(MCN\) 2006](#)
[NRCS Bulletin 29th July, 2007](#)
[Baglung Landslides Report, 2007](#)
[Flood scenario of Saptari, 2007](#)
[Report on relief, Mahottari, 2007](#)
[Delhi Declaration, Nov, 2007](#)
[We Know What We Need : Nov.](#)
[Flood Response Study 2007](#)
[Global flood lesson 2007](#)

Snapshots



Women participating in a rally to mark 10th National Earthquake Safety Day in Lalitpur on Jan 16.

Our Words

Disaster Watch Newsletter is now going to change its pattern. Along with the end of monsoon, daily updates will not be available but new updates will be posted regularly. Disaster Watch Newsletter would be made more interactive henceforth.

We will start regular columns and invite guest, viewers to have their say on different disaster issues. Suggestions and feedbacks would be heartedly appreciated .

It has been very difficult for the people in Mustang district after the heavy snowfall occurring since last Friday brought severe cold. Even the livestock are badly affected by the snowfall. The snowfall recurred after two days have disrupted the communication and also the Pokhara-Jomsom air flights. A local Res Bahadur Tulachan said people in upper Mustang are making fire in the houses and those in the lower region could not come out of home due to the snow piled up to three feet.

(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

Hailstone causes heavy loss in Myagdi

A heavy rain with hailstone that took place on January 26 has destroyed standing wheat and vegetable worth tens of thousand in the rural area of Myagdi district.

The hailstone that occurred in Barangja, Okharbot, Takam, Bhakimli Gaushwara including other VDCs of Myagdi district destroyed wheat, potato, cabbage, tomato and other seasonal and off-seasonal vegetables worth around Rs. 500 thousands, said the local farmers.

According to the information provided by Dor Bahadur Gharti, a local farmer of Bhakimli, the hailstone measuring one and half fit has caused entire damage of vegetable production and has buried wheat plantation in Bhakimli. The detail of loss caused by the hailstone has yet to be finalized, said District Agriculture Development Office.

(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

Pneumonia patients on rise, one dead

Health officials of Dhankuta district have said that the number of patients with pneumonia and other respiratory diseases has shot up in Dhankuta. Health officials say that around three dozen such patients visit the hospital every day. According to Dr Ayush Khanal, the dipping temperatures are behind such diseases. A six-year old boy from Dhankuta Municipality died of pneumonia on Sunday.

(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

Nepal sees 10 minor quakes a day

The National Seismological Centre (NSC), last year, recorded 929 earthquakes with a magnitude of more than two on the Richter scale. The record doesn't tell all, chief of the NSC Soma Nath Sapkota says. Around ten earthquakes, very minor ones, take place every day, he added.

"It is observed that around ten earthquakes take place every day, but they are less powerful and quakes of less than two on the Richter scale are insignificant and so not recorded," Sapkota said. Those earthquakes being very small and harmless, people "would not even realise the tremor," he added.

The NSC has recorded 21 earthquakes which had a magnitude of more than four on the Richter scale, three which were over five on the scale, including the one in Kathmandu on October 29, which had Nuwakot as its epicentre. Sapkota said unless the earthquakes have a magnitude of around six, there is little chance of big damage. However, he added that the impact of any earthquake could vary based on the distance from the epicentre and the land type.

Asia Watch

BANGLADESH: Bird flu "spreading fast", says expert

DHAKA - A fresh outbreak of bird flu this week in Bangladesh has renewed fears of a possible spread: Seventy-two farms in 23 of Bangladesh's 64 districts have reportedly been infected with the deadly virus so far.

"The situation is really bad. It is getting out of control. People are handling, selling and eating avian influenza infected chicken," said Habibibur Rahman of the Bangladesh Agricultural University.

"The disease is spreading fast in terms of numbers and areas. Two new divisions, Barisal and Sylhet, out of the country's six divisions, have been freshly affected this week," he said. But Rahman, a national expert on bird flu, insists that the pan-demic can be controlled provided backyard farmers improve their health and hygiene behaviour - including the disposal of poultry faeces.

"Dead birds are culled and buried. But their faeces, loaded with the H5N1 virus, are not disposed of properly. If this continues, the outbreaks will also continue," the expert warned, noting: "It is the backyard farms that pose a real danger - more than the commercial ones."

Government efforts

"We are detecting and culling bird flu affected poultry wherever they are found. We are also compensating the farmers for their losses based on the number and age of birds culled," said Sunil Ghose, director-general of the Department of Livestock. "Our field staff all over the country are working round the clock to identify sick birds and send samples to six of our field testing laboratories and two other labs in Dhaka. Imposition of movement restrictions and

"If the area have bedrocks, there is less chance of destruction, but on soft soil there is a higher risk." Nepal is positioned on the boundary between the Indian and Tibetan tectonic plates and therefore lies in a seismically active region. It is the 11th most earthquake- prone state.

According to Surya Narayan Shrestha of National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), small tremors are frequent in the country, but an earthquake as big as that of 1934 occurs only in a span of 70 to 80 years. He added that the earthquakes could not be prevented. All that we can do is to minimise the hazards and prepare ourselves to face them. (*The Himalayan Times*)

(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

10 VDCs of Ilam sensitive to outbreak of bird flu

The Ilam District Livestock Service Office (DLSO) has categorised 10 VDCs as vulnerable to bird flu outbreak. The Ilam DLSO has said that Pashupatinagar, Phikkal, Itatar, Samalbung, Chulachuli, Godak, Danabari, Sulubung Ghuseni VDCs and Ilam municipality are facing risk of bird flu outbreak.

"We are preparing to send 150 samples of birds from these areas for tests," technician at the Ilam DLSO Dr Ram Parikshyan Shah said. VDCs including Jamuna, Pyang, Maimajhuwa, Mabu, Maipokhari, Shreeantu and Jogmai are also considered sensitive in view of possible outbreak of bird flu, he said.

A 12-member technical team coordinated by CDO Ram Prasad Ghimire has been formed to prevent outbreak of bird flu. The committee is organising various programmes, including launching awareness programmes in schools and banning import of poultry products.

Meanwhile, a report from Damak said quarantine posts based in southern parts of Jhapa are on high alert to prevent a possible outbreak of bird flu. "The import of chickens and poultry products has been banned after bird flu spread in West Bengal," assistant technician at the Livestock Service Centre in Gaurigunj, Ghanendra Bhandari, said, adding some 700 eggs that were smuggled into Nepal were destroyed.

(Posted on 30th January, 2008)

Seven succumbed to death from cold

Two minors and five elderly people died due to the severe cold and snowfall in last four days. According to the police, five died in Bajura and one each in Siraha and Nawalparasi district.

Kalak Bista, 65, of Dantola VDC-5, Himkala Dhami, 43, and Haribhakta Dhami 61 of ward-2, Laxmi Roka of Kada-7, have been died of cold. Locals said snowfall has been appeared more this year comparing last years. District headquarter Chainpur and neighbouring VDCs have been more afflicted this year. of the district, though the snowfall used to occur in the previous years too, said Vijaya Bista of Dantola-7.

In Madar-5 of Siraha district, fifty-five-year-old Sona Devi Jha died of severe cold at her house on Wednesday evening. Severe cold for the last few days has affected normal life in the district.

An unidentified elderly person died of cold at Pithauli-9 of Nawalparasi along with Mahendra Highway on Thursday night, area police office Kawasoti said. In Parasi District Hospital, patients of pneumonia have been increased significantly.

establishing security zones around infected farms have so far worked effectively in restricting the spread of bird flu," Ghose said.

New areas affected

New areas like the southern and eastern districts of the country have reported bird flu in commercial and backyard poultry farms, raising concern amongst government officials, farmers, scientists and the general public over containing the pandemic.

Over 21,000 fowls were culled in coastal Barguna District on 17 January, and another 3,000 in Jessore District, southwestern Bangladesh, after detection of the virus. Fowls have been culled in Barguna since 16 January, when over 400 chickens at a poultry farm in the village of Dhalua, Sadar sub-district, reportedly died after detection of the deadly H5N1 virus.

Barguna is one of the districts hit worst by last November's devastating Cyclone Sidr, which killed more than 3,400 people and rendered millions homeless.

Local authorities have declared a one-mile no-go zone around the area and culled 20,157 chickens, 590 ducks, 515 pigeons and a parrot in the area.

On 16 January, in Barisal, another southern district, the authorities culled over 1,500 birds. "Almost all our chickens are dead. Government officials are killing only ducks and pigeons. There is no chicken left alive," said Kutubuddin Mollah, a poultry seller at Barisal's Kathpatti bazar.

Meanwhile, all 1,650 poultry farms in nine sub-districts of Khulna District, including Khulna city, are now under observation by health authorities, with a one-mile security zone declared around all bird flu affected farms throughout the country.

(Posted on 25th January, 2008)

Winter scourge in several districts

Dadeldhura : Transport along Bhimdutta highway has been obstructed since Thursday morning due to the heavy snowfall in the district. There is about two feet thick snow on the road at Halgute stretch of the highway. Chief District Officer of Kailali Dil Bahadur Ghimire informed that security forces were deployed there to clear the highway. "However, they could not accomplish the mission as it started snowing from Friday evening in the areas," added Ghimire.

Ilam : More than half a dozen schools were closed down in the northern part of Ilam district due to severe cold. The schools were closed down for some days as it was very difficult to go outside from the houses, teacher of Rastriya Primary School of Joubari, Pemba Sherpa said. Joubari, Kalpokhari, Sandakpur, and Tumling had received snowfall accompanied by rain a few days ago and business centres also witnessed low transactions because of this.

Humla : People from various VDCs of Humla district reached in the district headquarters Simikot for food grain have returned empty handed. They were bound to return without food grains due to the snowfall. Recommendation by the VDC secretary is required for the people to get rice and salt. However, they are facing problems as the secretaries in almost all VDCs not found in their offices.

Lamjung : Normal life here in the Northern part of Lamjung district adjoining the Himalayan region has become troublesome because of the snowfall. People of half a dozen VDCs including Taghring, Ghermu, Bahundanda and Bhulbhule of Northern Lamjung and Dudhpokhari, Ilampokhari, and Ghanpokhari of the north-west are more affected because of the snowfall. People of the VDCs have not been able to come out of the house and their daily works have been affected because of the snowfall.

Sankhuwasabha : The food shortage surfaced in Makalu Kimathang, Chepuwa Thudam, Hatiya, Pawakhola, Nundhaki, Gufapokhari including other VDCs in the mountainous belt of Sankhuwasabha district due to a heavy snowfall. The food shortage took place when yaks have not been used in the area to transport goods due to the continuous snow, rain and cold for the last one week.

(Posted on 25th January, 2008)

Jan 23 coldest day this winter

Kathmandu saw its coldest day so far this winter on January 23rd. The maximum temperature in the capital on that day was 10.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest of the season so far, according to the Meteorological Forecasting Division. The maximum temperature was 12.7 degrees Celsius on Tuesday.

The coldest day recorded in the capital so far was January 20, 1997. The maximum temperature on that day was 6.9 degrees Celsius. Due to the presence of clouds, the cold wave spreaded to the lower parts of the Tarai.

(Posted on 25th January, 2008)

Be alert on bird flu : Ministries urge all

The Ministries of Health and Population, and Agriculture and Co-operatives have been adopting high-alert steps to prevent country from bird flu. The sample tests carried out in various districts of the country including Jhapa have not found the

Additionally, the export and import of fowls, eggs and poultry feed to and from the affected areas have been officially banned. (IRIN)

Loss of lives this monsoon

Baglung	29
Banke	28
Gulmi	19
Rautahat	12
Bajura	11
Bardia	10
Sindhuli	10
Darchula	9
Ramechhap	9
Sindhuli	10
Baitadi	8
Dang	8
Pyuthan	7
Salyan	7
Mahottari	7
Siraha	7
Kailali	6
Kaski	6
Makwanpur	6
Achham	6
Udayapur	5
Jajarkot	5
Kalikot	5
Arghakhachi	5
Saptari	5
Jumla	4
Surkhet	4
Jhapa	4
Chitwan	4
Morang	4
Sunsari	4
Nawalparasi	3
Rukum	3
Dhanusha	3
Khotang	2
Bhojpur	2
Panchthar	2
Sarlahi	2
Parsa	2
Palpa	2
Bara	2
Dhading	2
Rupendehi	2
Bajhang	1
Tanahun	1
Sindhupalchowk	1
Lalitpur	1
Dadeldhura	1
Kavre	1
Mustang	1
Myagdi	1

(As of 30th October, 2007)

Major Displacements

disease. The ministries have urged all not to sell and buy the diseased and dead birds.

Moreover, the ministries have already dispatched various teams of experts along with essential instruments and things to detect the disease and also given directives to the regional and district level offices to adopt preventive measures.

The disease has not entered Nepal. However, it is our responsibility to remain with high alert for the prevention as people can also be caught with the diseases from the diseased hens and other birds, the ministries warned.

The ministries have further suggested the children not to near the diseased hens, pigeons, and other tame birds as parrot. They have urged all to wash hands with soap and water after cleaning the pen and touching chicken.

Meanwhile, Quarantine Check Post, Kakarbhitta has confiscated 60 hens being tried to import illegally in Nepal from West Bengal, India which is hit hard with bird flu. The confiscated birds have been culled in Mechi river bank on Friday.

However, the locals of Birgunj have complained that birds and avian products have been blatantly imported from Birgunj entry though said to have been maintained high alert of the bird flu.

(Posted on 25th January, 2008)

Warmer winter this year

This year's winter is drier and comparatively warmer compared to past ones. According to the Meteorological Forecasting Division (MFD), there is a low chance of significant rainfall or snowfall this year.

According to Krishna Bhakta Manandhar, senior divisional meteorologist at the MFD, the western disturbance — weather phenomena that causes cloudiness, snow and rainfall — is weak this year. "There has been no significant rainfall or snowfall, save insignificant drizzle in some western parts," he said. Today, the minimum temperature remained 5.6 degree Celsius. "The normal average during the third week of January used to be around 0 to 2 degree Celsius," he said.

On February 14 last year, Kathmandu received its first snowfall in 63 years. Manandhar said there is no probability of snowfall this year.

(Posted on 21st January, 2008)

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Saptari	10000 family
Siraha	6000 family
Mahottari	3700 family
Bardiya	2500 family
Dhanusha	2050 family
Parsa	2000 family
Rupendehi	2000 family
Sunsari	1000 family
Banke	750 family

Total displacement: 48000 family

Total affected population:

Around 4 lakh 72 thousand (as of 30th October, 2007)

Sources : NRCS, Media reports/
MCN

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